

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated November 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The August 25, 2005 Final Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, the specification and claims are amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

Inasmuch as the present Amendment raises no new issues for consideration, and, in any event, places the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for consideration on appeal, its entry under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112

In the Office Action claims 61 and 62 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response, claims 61 and 62 are amended along the lines proposed

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by the Examiner. In view of the amendment of claims 61 and 62, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 61 and 62 are respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 57-62 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,930,810 (Farros et al.).

The present claimed invention as defined by claim 57 is directed to a printing information distribution apparatus which is adapted to be connected to information terminals and printers located at different places, through a network. The apparatus includes user information storage means for storing user information regarding an information terminal which accesses the printing information distributing apparatus, printing reservation information storage means for storing printing reservation information, and information terminal authenticating means for acquiring, when the information terminal accesses the printing information distributing apparatus through the network, identification information indicating a user of the one of the information terminals, and performs authentication to determine whether or not the user of the information terminal is stored in the user information storage means. The apparatus also includes

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printing reservation means for (i) transmitting a printing reservation screen image for use in reservation for printing desired printing information to the information terminal, when the information terminal authenticating means authenticates the information terminal, (ii) receiving a reservation for printing the desired printing information from the information terminal, and (iii) storing printing reservation information indicating the desired printing information and the identification information indicating the user of the one of the information terminals, which is acquired by the information terminal authenticating means, in the printing reservation information storage means, in association with the printing reservation information and the identification information. The apparatus further includes printer authenticating means for authenticating one of the printers, when the one of the printers accesses the printing information distributing apparatus through the network, and identification information fetching means for fetching identification information which is transmitted by said one of the printers through the network when the printer authenticating means authenticates the one of the printers and the identification information is input. The apparatus further includes printing information generating means for (i) retrieving

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from the printing reservation information storage means based on the identification information fetched by the identification information fetching means, (ii) reading printing reservation information associated with the identification information from the printing reservation information storage means, and (iii) generating printing information based on the read printing reservation information, and printing information transmitting means for transmitting, through the network, the printing information generated by the printing information generating means to said one of the printers which transmits the identification information, and causing said one of the printers to print out the printing information.

Farros et al. teach a printing system which operates on a computer system to enable creation of a variety of printed products. The printing system is disclosed as being either a kiosk or a personal system. In the printing system, a variety of definitions of products which may be selected and modified by a user are stored in a storage area of the printing system. The user alters a plurality of aspects of a selected printed product, which includes the layout of the product, the graphics of the product and different aspects of the textual information to be printed on the product to personalize the product. Upon

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completion of personalization of the product, the printing system provides the user with a plurality of order and transmission options which allow certain products to be printed locally, and which allows certain products to be printed by a remotely located printing facility. The user creates a print order, and then transmits it to the remote printing facility in one of two manners. Payment information includes credit card information, and is entered for payment of products printed by the remote printing facility (see the Abstract of Farros et al.).

In the present claimed invention as defined by claim 57, reservation for printing of desired printing information is made by using an information terminal (recited in the third line of printing reservation means of claim 57) provided in a user's home or carried by the user. Thus, even when the user is not at home, the desired printing information can be printed at a printer located at an arbitrary place simply by inputting identification information from the information terminal which is carried by the user. Accordingly, the user does not need to provide a printer in his or her home, and desired information, for which reservation for printing has been made, can be printed out from a desired place from the information terminal.

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In contrast to the present claimed invention, Farros et al. disclose that printed products such as letterheads or business cards designed by the user at a kiosk or on a personal system are printed by the remote printing facility. However, Farros et al. do not disclose how the user retrieves and reads the information regarding the designed letterhead or business card from a memory, and how the information is transmitted to the printing facility, when the products are to be printed by the printing facility. More specifically, Farros et al. do not teach a printing reservation means which performs all of the functions recited in claim 57.

In rejecting claim 57 the Examiner contends that column 4, lines 21-24 reads on printing reservation information storage means. Column 4, lines 21-24 of Farros et al. disclose:

Front-end operations 100 are performed off-line before use of the printing system 110 by a user. As seen at 102-104, forms information, pricing information and graphic information are developed and stored to computer readable files seen at 105-109.

This excerpt from Farros et al. does not at all discuss printing reservation means which transmits, receives and stores as set forth in claim 57.

That is, the present claimed invention as defined by claim 57 is patentable over the cited reference because the reference

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does not disclose, teach or suggest a printing information distribution apparatus including, inter alia:

printing reservation means for (i) transmitting a printing reservation screen image for use in reservation for printing desired printing information to the information terminal, when the information terminal authenticating means authenticates the information terminal, (ii) receiving a reservation for printing the desired printing information from the information terminal, and (iii) storing printing reservation information indicating the desired printing information and the identification information indicating the user of the one of the information terminals, which is acquired by the information terminal authenticating means, in the printing reservation information storage means, in association with the printing reservation information and the identification information. (See claim 57, lines 17-29.)

In view of the of foregoing, claim 57 is patentable over Farros et al. and all of the other references of record under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claims 58 and 59 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 57 and are patentable over the cited reference in view of their dependence on claim 57 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claims 58 and 59.

Claims 60-62 correspond to claims 57-59 but are written in non-means-plus-function format. Independent claim 60 is patentable over the cited references for reasons, inter alia, set forth above in connection with claim 57. Claims 61 and 62, which

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are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 60, are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claim 60 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of limitations set forth in claims 61 and 62.'

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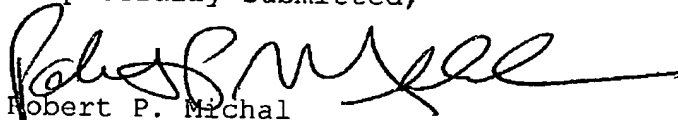
Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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